

ABSTRACT

[1036] In a wireless communication system (10) a method and apparatus for inhibiting data transmissions during a data service outage at the access terminal (16). The access terminal (16) transmits an outage indicator to the access network (12) prior to the outage. A data service outage may be due to a page monitor of the voice portion of the system, or to frequency searching during which the access terminal (AT) is not available to receive data. The access network (12) does not transmit data during the outage. In one embodiment, the indicator is a DRC null cover. In an alternate embodiment, the indicator is a DRC having a zero data rate.

1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the situation and the goals that need to be achieved.